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FOREIGN POLICY # 4

How can the Agency best meet US intelligence needs on foreign policy matters deriving from the competition for world resources and markets?

I. SUMMARY

The increasing importance of economic problems in foreign affairs places an ever-growing burden on the US intelligence community. Policymakers want more coverage and analysis of these problems and demands will be even greater in the future. During the 1980s, the United States and its Allies will face difficult economic choices, driven by tightening resource constraints coupled with rapid changes in the structure of industrial and financial markets. There will be social, political, and legal constraints on our ability to adapt to a changing world environment. The adjustment process will also put the mechanisms for international economic and political cooperation under great strain.

The team responsible for exploring Foreign Policy Issue # 4 reviewed the relevant changes in economic intelligence, broadly defined, during recent years. CIA's efforts have changed with the times. Anticipating and coping with these changes require a combination of analytical depth, administrative flexibility, and some educated guessing about future requirements. These changes have implications for collection and analysis. Some of these changes must be tackled, some may be deflected. Some can be accommodated using existing resources, some will require new resources.

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